AFRICAN ART

Selections from an Important Private Collection

Summer 2025

Fredric Backlar

FINE TRIBAL ART

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INQUIRIES

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Beverly Hills, CA
By Appointment

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Bamana Artist

Chiwara (Antelope Headdress)
Mali
Wood
Height 27 ¼ in (69.5cm)

Provenance
Galerie Argiles, Paris
Merton D. Simpson Gallery, New York
Ernst and Ruth Anspach Collection New York, acquired October 1988
New York Private Collection (No. 0806), acquired in the early 1990s

SOLD

Yoruba Artist

Hunter’s Hat
Nigeria
Leather, fiber, beads
Height 13in (33cm)

Provenance
Dr. Jeffrey Hammer Collection (1941 – 2006), Chicago
Tambaran Gallery, New York
New York Private Collection (No. 1147), acquired ca. 1992

Sikasingo/Pre-Bembe/Boyo Artist

Standing Male Figure
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Wood
Height 15 ¾ in (40cm)

Provenance
Harvey T. Menist Collection (1930-1982), Amsterdam/New York
Ernst and Ruth Anspach Collection New York, acquired in 1968
New York Private Collection (No. 1315), acquired in 1987

SOLD

Dogon Artist

Granary Door
Mali
Wood
Height 19 in (48.5cm); width 16 in (40.5cm)

Provenance
John J. Klejman Gallery (1906 – 1995), New York
Ernst and Ruth Anspach Collection New York, acquired September 1962
New York Private Collection, acquired in 2001

Exhibited
Notre Dame, Indiana, Museum of Notre Dame University, *Anspach Collection*, 17 March - 12 May 1968 (Cat. no. 9)

SOLD

Dan, Gio or Kran Artist

Bagle (Mask with articulated lower jaw)
Liberia/Côte d'Ivoire
Wood
Height 9 1/2in (24cm)

Provenance
John J. Klejman Gallery (1906 – 1995), New York
Ernst and Ruth Anspach Collection New York, acquired January 1965
New York Private Collection (No. 0537)

Exhibited
New York, Museum of Primitive Art, *African Tribal Sculpture from the Collection of Ernst and Ruth Anspach*, November 1967 – February 1968
Notre Dame, Indiana, Museum of Notre Dame University, *Anspach Collection*, 17 March - 12 May 1968 (Cat. no. 25)

SOLD

Fang Artist

Eyéma-o-byéri (Female Reliquary Figure)
Cameroon
Height 18 ½ in (47cm)

Provenance
Christie's, New York, 11 May 1983, Lot 282
New York Private Collection (No. 1203)

Yaure Artist

Je/Lo (Mask)
Cote d’Ivoire
Wood
Height 13 3/4in (35cm)

Provenance
Loed van Bussel (1935 – 2018), Amsterdam
Conny van Rietschoten, The Netherlands
Bonhams, London, 3 October 1990, Lot 204
Roberta and Lance Entwistle, London/Paris
New York Private Collection (No. 0501), acquired May 1991

SOLD

Luba Artist

Mboko (Female Bowl Bearer)
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Wood
Height 10 ¾ in (27.5cm)

Provenance
Harvey Menist (1930 – 1982), The Netherlands
Ernst and Ruth Anspach Collection New York, acquired November 1980
New York Private Collection (No. 1330), acquired March 1987

SOLD

Pende Artist

Caryatid Stool
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Wood
Height 13 ¾ in (35cm)

Provenance
Max Granick Collection (1906 – 1988), New York
Sotheby's, New York, 15 November 1988, Lot 89
New York Private Collection (No. 1328)

SOLD

Dogon Artist

Anthropomorphic Head
Mali
Wood
Height 7 in (18.8cm)

Provenance
The Museum of Primitive Art, New York (Inv. no. 57.102)
John J. Klejman Gallery (1906 – 1995), New York
Ernst and Ruth Anspach Collection (No. 0318), New York, acquired in 1964
New York Private Collection, acquired in 2001

Literature
Museum of Primitive Art, *Sculpture from Three African Tribes: Senufo, Baga, Dogon*, New York, spring 1959, fig. 17

Exhibited
New York, *Museum of Primitive Art, Selected works from the Collection*, Museum of Primitive Art, 20 February – 19 May 1957, fig. 14
Notre Dame, Indiana, Museum of Notre Dame University, *Anspach Collection*, 17 March - 12 May 1968, (Cat. no. 4)

SOLD

Ife Artist

Anthropomorphic Head
Nigeria
Terracotta
Height 4 ½ in (11.4cm)

Provenance
Roberta and Lance Entwistle, Paris/London
Ernst and Ruth Anspach Collection New York, (No. 0901) acquired March 1994
New York Private Collection, acquired in 2001

SOLD

Songye Artist

Kifwebe (Mask)
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Wood, natural pigments
Height 13in (33cm)

Provenance
Louis Van den Berghe Collection, ca. 1927
John J. Klejman Gallery (1906 – 1995), New York
Ernst and Ruth Anspach Collection New York (No. 1407), acquired in 1967
New York Private Collection (No. 1317), acquired 21 March 1987

Bidjogo Artist

Iran otibago (Altar Figure)
Bissagos Islands, Guinea Bissau
Wood, metal, pigments
Height 16 ¼ in (41.3cm)

Provenance
Collected by Bernhard Struck (1888 – 1971) and Hugo Adolf Bernatzik (1897 – 1953) in 1931
John J. Klejman Gallery (1906 – 1995), New York
Ernst and Ruth Anspach Collection New York, acquired in 1966
New York Private Collection (No. 0205), acquired in 1993

Literature
The Museum of Primitive Art, African *Tribal Sculpture from the Collection of Ernst and Ruth Anspach*, New York, 1967, p. 28 (left)

Exhibited
Museum of Primitive Art, New York, *African Tribal Sculpture from the Collection of Ernst and Ruth Anspach*, November 1967 – February 1968
Notre Dame, Indiana, Museum of Notre Dame University, *Anspach Collection*, 17 March - 12 May 1968

Cf. Bernatzik, Hugo Adolf, *Achbropian des Westerns*, Vol. 1, pp. 197-8, vol. 2, pl 360
Cf. Bernatzik, Hugo, Adlof, *Im Reiche der Bidjogo*, plate 106

SOLD

Yoruba Artist

Iyàrí (Comb)
Nigeria
Wood, pigments
Height 6 ¼ in (16cm)

Provenance
Pace Primitive Art Gallery, New York
Ernst and Ruth Anspach Collection New York, (No. 1942) acquired March 1982
New York Private Collection, acquired in 2001

Literature
Holcombe, Brice (Ed.), William Fagg and John Pemberton, *Yoruba Sculpture of West Africa,* Knopf, New York, 1982, p. 129, fig. 38 (lower)

Exhibited
Connecticut, University of Connecticut Art Museum, 1974
Amherst, Massachusetts, Mead Art Museum, *Yoruba*, April - May 83 (Cat. no. 51)

SOLD

Edo Artist

Uhunmwun-ekhue (Hip Mask Ornament)
Nigeria, ca. 1550 – 1650
Copper alloy
Height 3 in (8.5cm)

Provenance
Galerie Simonis, Dusseldorf, Germany, 1991
Michael Oliver, New York
New York Private Collection (No. 1101), acquired in 1991

Literature
Volprecht, Klaus, *Afrikanische Kunst*, Dusseldorf, Galerie Simonis, n.d. (1991)

Exhibited
Dusseldorf, Germany, *Afrikanische Kunst*, Galerie Simonis, 17 March 1991

SOLD

Fang Artist

Eyéma-o-byéri (Male Reliquary Figure)
Gabon
Wood, metal
Height 9 in (23cm)

Provenance
Eric de Kolb Collection (1916 – 2001), Vienna/New York
Ernst and Ruth Anspach Collection New York (No. 1101), acquired December 1968
New York Private Collection (No. 1101), acquired in 2001

Literature
Montclair State University, *Man-African Images,* 1972, Cat. No. 72

Exhibited
Montclair State University, New Jersey, *Man-African Images* (selections by Paul S. Wingert), October – November 1972

SOLD

Baule Artist

Blolo bian (Standing Male Figure)
Côte d'Ivoire
Wood, beads, metal
Height 20 ½ in (52cm)

Provenance
Merton D. Simpson Gallery, New York
Sotheby's, New York, May 8, 1989, Lot 26
New York Private Collection (No. 0511)

SOLD

Edo Artist

Belt Plaque with Figure
Nigeria, ca. 1550 – 1650
Copper alloy
Height 5 in (13cm)

Provenance
Admiral Brian Egerton, England
Philadelphia University Museum (Inv. no. AF2073)
Julius Carlebach (1909 – 1964), New York
Ernst and Ruth Anspach Collection New York (No. 0924), acquired in 1962
New York Private Collection, acquired in 2001

Literature
Preston, George Nelson, Ernst Anspach, Ruth Anspach, and State University College at Potsdam, *African Sculpture: Rare and Familiar Forms from the Anspach Collection,* New York, October 1974, fig. 14
Grey Gallery and Study Center, New York University, *Images of Power: The Royal Court of Benin*, New York University, New York, 1981, p. 24, fig. 14

Exhibited
Potsdam, New York, Brainerd Hall Art Gallery, State University College at Potsdam, *African Sculpture: Rare and Familiar Forms from the Anspach Collection*, October 1974
New York, Museum of Primitive Art, *African Tribal Sculpture from the Collection of Ernst and Ruth Anspach*, November 1967 – February 1968
Notre Dame, Indiana, Museum of Notre Dame University, *Anspach Collection*, 17 March - 12 May 1968
New York, Grey Gallery and Study Center, New York University, *Images of Power: The Royal Court of Benin*, 23 January – 21 February 1981

SOLD

Senufo Artist

Heddle Pulley
Cote d’Ivoire
Wood
Height 8 in (20.3cm)

Provenance
Harry Franklin Collection (1904 – 1983), Los Angeles
Sotheby’s, New York, 21 April 1990, Lot 83
New York Private Collection (No. 0505)

Dogon Artist

Female Standing Figure
Mali
Wood, metal rings and inset eyes
Height 19 in (48cm)

Provenance
Peter Wengraf, Arcade Gallery, London
Ernst and Ruth Anspach Collection New York, acquired January 1982
New York Private Collection (No. 0804), acquired March 1987

SOLD

Kongo-Yombe Artist

Phemba (Seated Maternity Figure)
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Wood
Height 6 ¾ in (17cm)

Provenance
Possibly collected by Emile Torday (handwritten legend on base “Small maternity Nkisi (fetish) from the north bank of the lower Congo”)
John J. Klejman Gallery (1906 – 1995), New York
Ernst and Ruth Anspach Collection New York (No. 1305), acquired in 1964
New York Private Collection, acquired in 2001

Literature
Museum of Notre Dame University, *Anspach Collection*, Notre Dame, Indiana, 1968, Cat. no. 93

Exhibited
Notre Dame, Indiana, *Anspach Collection*, Museum of Notre Dame University, 17 March - 12 May 1968

SOLD

Songye Artist

Kalengula (Shield)
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Wood, pigments
Height 28 ½ in (72.4cm)

Provenance
Julian and Irma Brody Collection, Des Moines, Iowa
John J. Klejman Gallery (1906 – 1995), New York
Tom Alexander III (1943 – 2021), St. Louis, MO, acquired ca. 1960
Ernst and Ruth Anspach Collection New York (No. 1308), acquired in 1981
New York Private Collection, acquired in 1993

SOLD

Lega Artist

Lukwakongo (Mask)
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Wood, kaolin
Height 9 in (23cm)

Provenance
Nicholas de Kun, Brussels/New York
Walter Randel, New York
Sotheby's, New York, 20 May 1987, Lot 162
New York Private Collection (No. 1323)

SOLD

Ashanti Artist

Pendant
Ghana
Copper alloy, gold-leaf
3 ¼ x 3 ins (8 x 7.5cm)

Provenance
Mrs. Gertrud Duebi-Muler, Solothurn, Swizterland
Sotheby's, London, 30 March 1981, Lot 246
New York Private Collection

SOLD

Ife Artist

Anthropomorphic Head
Nigeria
Terracotta
Height 3 ¾ in (9cm)

Provenance
Michael Oliver, New York
New York Private Collection (No. 1136), acquired 24 April 1993

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